

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01
SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /090 W
----- 042190 /12

R 162046Z DEC 76
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1900
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 0228
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY ANKARA BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK BY POUCH

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0634

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD
DECEMBER 13-16

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AT THE FINAL INFORMAL SESSION
OF THE TENTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION
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NEGOTIATIONS ON DECEMBER 15, WESTERN REPS INTRODUCED
REVISED DATA ON THE MILITARY MANPOWER OF WESTERN
DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH NAC-APPROVED GUIDANCE. THE SOVIET
REP COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON THE REVISED WESTERN DATA
TO THE EFFECT THAT EASTERN PARTICIPANTS WOULD NEED

SOME TIME TO ANALYZE THE NEW FIGURES, BUT THAT EVEN AT FIRST GLANCE THEY DIFFERED FROM EASTERN ESTIMATES FOR NATO FORCES IN THE AREA. IN REMARKS MADE FOLLOWING INCLUSION OF THE REVISED WESTERN DATA IN A STATEMENT DELIVERED BY US REP AT THE DECEMBER 16 PLENARY MEETING, SOVOET REP REPEATED THE SAME POINTS AND ADDED THAT WESTERN VIEWS AS REGARDS DISPARITIES DID NOT CORRESPOND TO REALITY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE TENTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS ENDED THIS WEEK. IN THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROUND, WESTERN REPS AT THE DECEMBER 15 INFORMAL SESSION TABLED REVISED NATO DATA ON THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE MILITARY MANPOWER OF WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDELINES PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE NAC, EASTERN REPS WERE INFORMED THAT:

(A) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF UNIFORMED ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL OF WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS WAS 731,000 AS OF JANUARY 1, 1976. THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF APPROXIMATELY 14,000 IN THE TOTAL FIGURE FOR THESE PARTICIPANTS OWING TO MORE PRECISE COMPILATION SINCE THE NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN.

(B) THE COMBINED TOTAL NUMBER OF UNIFORMED ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY GROUND AND AIR FORCE PERSONNEL OF THE WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS WAS 921,000 MEN AS OF JANUARY 1, 1976.

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WESTERN REPS MADE CLEAR THE COUNTING RULES USED BY THE WEST IN COMILING ITS DATA, THAT IS, THAT THESE FIGURES INCLUDED ALL ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL OF THE FORCES OF THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN THE AREA WITH THE AGREED EXCEPTION OF THE NAVY. THEY STRESSED THAT THE WEST NEEDED TO BE EQUALLY CLEAR AS REGARDS THE COUNTING RULES USED TO COMPILE EASTERN DATA AND THAT THEY EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS TO PROCEED NOW TO AN OBJECTIVE DISCUSSION OF COUNTING RULES AND A DEFINITION OF FORCES.

3. FOLLOWING A FORMULA SIMILAR TO THAT USED BY U.S. REP IN REMARKS MADE AT THE JUNE 10 PLENARY MEETING AFTER THE EAST ANNOUNCED ITS FIGURES FOR WARSAW PACT FORCES IN THE AREA, SOVIET REP TARASOV COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON THE REVISED WESTERN DATA TO THE EFFECT THAT EASTERN PARTICIPANTS WOULD NEED SOME TIME TO ANALYZE THE NEW FIGURES, BUT THAT EVEN AT FIRST GLANCE THEY DIFFERED

SUBSTANTIALLY FROM EASTERN ESTIMATES FOR THESE NATO MILITARY MANPOWER HAD NOT BEEN LIMITED TO THE FORCES OF "THE WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS," SOVIET REP THEN ASKED WHETHER THE USE OF SUCH A QUALIFYING PHRASE ON THE PRESENT OCCASION WAS INTENTIONAL. WESTERN REPS STATED THAT THEY WERE NOT AUTHORIZED TO INCLUDE IN THE FIGURES THE FORCES OF NON-PARTICIPANTS IN THE VIENNA TALKS.

4. IN THE REMAINDER OF THE DECEMBER 15 INFORMAL SESSION, WESTERN REPS CRITICIZED THE EASTERN INSISTENCE ON ACROSS-THE-BOARD REDUCTIONS AS UNREALISTIC AND REITERATED THAT THE WEST CONTINUED TO EXPECT A SERIOUS EASTERN RESPONSE TO THE DECEMBER 1975 WESTERN PROPOSALS. EASTERN REPS PRESENTED FAMILIAR ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL AND AGAINST THE WESTERN APPROACH TO REDUCTIONS. EASTERN REPS AGAIN EMPHASIZED AS WELL THE MERITS OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL THAT PARTICIPANTS AGREE NOT TO INCREASE THE
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NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THEIR ARMED FORCES IN THE AREA FOR THE DURATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

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IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01
SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /090 W
----- 042112 /11

R 162047Z DEC 76
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1901
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AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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FROM US REP MBFR

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

5. BOTH EAST AND WEST MADE FORMAL STATEMENTS AT THE CONCLUDING PLENARY MEETING ON DECEMBER 16. SOVIET REP TARASOV REPEATED THE GENERAL THEMES USED BY EASTERN REPS AT THE DECEMBER 15 INFORMAL SESSION. IN HIS STATEMENT, US REP ALSO DUPLICATED THE PRESENTATION MADE THE PREVIOUS DAY OF REVISED WESTERN DATA. THE BALANCE OF US REP'S STATEMENT UNDERLINED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE
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DECEMBER 1975 WESTERN PROPOSALS AS A REALISTIC AND PRACTICAL WAY TO RECONCILE THE CONFLICTING REDUCTION APPROACHES OF THE TWO SIDES AND CONTRASTED WESTERN FLEXIBILITY WITH THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL, WHICH PRESERVED THE ORIGINAL EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH AND WOULD LEAD TO THE SAME OUTCOME AS ENVISAGED BY THE EAST FROM THE OUTSET OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

6. FOLLOWING DELIVERY OF THE WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT, SOVIET REP TARASOV AGAIN REQUESTED TO SPEAK. HE STATED ONCE MORE THAT THE EAST WOULD NEED TIME TO STUDY THE NEW WESTERN DATA WHICH DIFFERED FROM EASTERN ESTIMATES. SOVIET REP ADDED THAT REALITY DID NOT SUPPORT THE WESTERN VIEW OF DISPARITIES, WHICH WAS AIMED AT JUSTIFYING INEQUITABLE ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS, AND SUGGESTED THAT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD NOW PROCEED TO WORK WITH GREATER PRECISION, FREE FROM DISTRACTING TALK ABOUT DISPARITIES AND REDUCTIONS OF THIS KIND.

7. IN A PREPARED STATEMENT DELIVERED AT A HEAVILY ATTENDED END-OF-ROUND PRESS CONFERENCE, GDR REP OESER CALLED ATTENTION TO THE RENEWAL OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL THAT PARTICIPANTS AGREE NOT TO INCREASE THEIR MILITARY MAN-POWER DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS, CLAIMED THAT THE RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE WAS IN AN APPROXIMATE

EQUILIBRIUM THAT MUST BE MAINTAINED, AND ASSERTED THAT NATO PARTICIPANTS WERE ENGAGED IN AN EXTENSIVE QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENT OF THEIR FORCES WHILE STALLING PROGRESS IN THE VIENNA TALKS. THE STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DUTCH REP DE VOS AT THE SAME CONFERENCE CONFIRMED THE TABLING OF REVISED WESTERN DATA. IN RESPONDING TO NUMEROUS FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FROM REPORTERS ON DATA, DE VOS DECLINED TO GIVE THE SPECIFIC FIGURES TABLED BY THE WEST, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY HAD NOT INCLUDED
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FRENCH FORCES.

8. IN THE COURSE OF THE WEEK, THE ADHOC GROUP APPROVED A REQUEST TO THE NAC FOR AUTHORIZATION TO USE WITH THE EAST CERTAIN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED GUIDANCE AS REGARDS THE WESTERN POSITION ON ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS.

9. FOLLOWING ANALYSIS OF THE INITIAL EASTERN REACTION TO THE DECEMBER 15 TABLING OF REVISED WESTERN DATA, THE GROUP FURTHER APPROVED A REQUEST TO THE COUNCIL FOR DISCRETIONARY AUTHORIZATION TO TABLE CURRENT NATO AGREED ESTIMATES OF WARSAW PACT GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND TOTAL WARSAW PACT GROUND AND AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS. IN MAKING THIS REQUEST, THE GROUP ALSO ASKED THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE ISSUE OF HOW TO DEAL WITH THE ANOMALIES IN THE PRESENT WESTERN CATEGORIZATION OF MILITARY MANPOWER BETWEEN GROUND AND AIR FORCES.

10. THE VIENNA TALKS ARE SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE THE WEEK OF JANUARY 31. RESOR

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